AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-14 and add new claims 15-35, as follows:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (new) A kitchen appliance comprising:

a housing and a pitcher removably mounted on the housing (14);

a driving motor located in the housing and having an output shaft;

a tool shaft of a coupling device disposed inside the pitcher and mounted via a shaft bearing, which coupling device has an input coupling placed on the tool shaft and which matches the output shaft;

a cooling air duct with a port provided on the housing;

a lid being positionable in an open position, in which the port is open, and a closed position, in which the port is closed, the lid being brought into the open position by coupling the input coupling with the output coupling.

16. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein the lid is held tensioned by a spring in the closed position.

17. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein the input coupling can be brought into an uncoupled position compared to the output coupling.

18. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein the lid when in the closed position, covers the output coupling.

19. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein in the opened position of the lid the cooling air duct is released for conducting cooling air for at least one of the driving motor and the coupling device and the shaft bearing.

20. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein the port is disposed adjacent to the output coupling.

21. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, further comprising a fan arranged on the driving motor generating a cooling air current along a cooling air channel through the housing and through the cooling air duct.

22. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 21, wherein the cooling air channel has a gap between a floor portion of the pitcher and the housing and an additional opening in the housing, which is remote from the port.

23. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 22, wherein the cooling air enters at the gap, is conducted along the cooling air channel past the shaft bearing and the coupling device, enters the interior of the housing through the port, flows through the driving motor and exits again from the housing through the additional opening.

24. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein the pitcher has a pitcher base and a bearing shield carrying the shaft bearing, whereby the pitcher base is mountable on the housing via a locking means.

25. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 24, wherein the locking means includes a bayonet fixing.

26. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 24, wherein the pitcher is mountable on the pitcher base via a connection means, and when the pitcher is mounted on the pitcher base, the bearing shield is disposed between the pitcher and the pitcher base.

27. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 26, wherein the connection means includes a thread.

28. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 26, wherein, when the pitcher base is mounted on the housing and the pitcher is not mounted on the pitcher base, the bearing shield with bearing shaft and the input coupling is moved by means of the tensioned lid in such a way that the input coupling is uncoupled from the output coupling.

29. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein an annular gap is formed between the housing and the output coupling and in that the lid is annularly shaped and is linearly movable to and fro from the closed position into the opened position coaxially to the output coupling.

30. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 15, wherein the lid has a stop in the closed position and is positioned so as to be flush with at least one of the adjacent housing portion and the facing end of the output coupling.

31. (new) A kitchen appliance comprising:

a housing having a holder near a top portion of the housing;

a pitcher having a bottom edge defining an open floor portion;

a pitcher base removably connected to the pitcher to close the open floor portion, the pitcher base being removably mounted in the holder of the housing;

a driving motor disposed in the housing and having a rotational output shaft extending outwardly the motor and having an output coupling at an end of the output shaft;

a tool shaft connected to the pitcher base for rotation with respect to the pitcher base and having an input coupling at an end of the tool shaft and being engagable with the output coupling to transfer rotation from the output shaft to the tool shaft;

a port defined by the housing near the holder and surrounding the output coupling; and

a ring-shaped lid supported by the housing and surrounding the output coupling, the lid being movable between an open condition, in which the port is open and the input coupling is engaged with the output coupling, and a closed condition, in which the lid closes the port and the input coupling is disengaged from the output coupling.

32. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 31, wherein the lid moves toward the open condition in response to the pitcher being connected to the pitcher base and the pitcher base being mounted in the holder of the housing, and the lid moving toward the closed condition in response to at least one of the pitcher being disconnected from the pitcher base and the pitcher base being removed from the holder of the housing.

33. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 31, further comprising a biasing member biasing the lid toward the closed condition.

34. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 31, wherein the housing includes a housing bell defining the port and limiting axial movement of the lid and stopping the lid in the closed condition, the lid being substantially flush with a top facing end of the output coupling in the closed condition.

35. (new) The kitchen appliance according to claim 31, further comprising a bearing shield connected to the rotor shaft and extending radially outwardly to an outer disc-like ring, the bearing shield being movable between an engaged condition, in which the input coupling engages the out put coupling, and a disengaged condition, in which the input coupling is disengaged from the output coupling, the bottom edge of the pitcher engaging the disc-like ring to move the bearing shield from the disengaged condition to the engaged condition, the lid being in the open condition when the bearing shield is in the engaged condition.